AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins
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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-264

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor(a)amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see:
http://www.amsat.org/mailman/listinfo/ans

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-264.01
ANS-264 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 264.01
>From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
DATE 2020 September 20
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-264.01

AMSAT Board of Directors Elections Results

Balloting for the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation’s 2020 Board of Directors election concluded September 15. Of the 1,233 envelopes returned, 1,231 could be associated with a unique member.

Ballots were separated from the envelopes to maintain secrecy and counted by the Secretary over three sessions conducted on September 16, 17, and 18. Candidates, Directors, Officers, and tellers chosen by the Secretary were invited to observe the opening of returned envelopes and handling of ballots during the count.

Five envelopes contained reports of deceased members, resulting in a total of 1,226 ballots scrutinized.

The number of votes cast for each candidate is as follows:

Mark Hammond, N8MH 707
Paul Stoetzer, N8HM 703
Bruce Paige, KK5DO 667
Howie DeFelice, AB2S 550
Bob McGwier, N4HY 534
Jeff Johns, WE4B 429

Four ballots were spoiled.

Accordingly, pursuant to Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws:

Mark Hammond, N8MH, Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, and Bruce Paige, KK5DO, have been elected as Directors of the Corporation for terms ending in 2022.

Howie DeFelice, AB2S, has been elected as First Alternate Director of the Corporation for a term ending in 2021.

Bob McGwier, N4HY, has been elected as Second Alternate Director of the Corporation for a term ending in 2021.

The Secretary thanks the candidates for their cooperation during the election process, those who observed the counting for their time and scrutiny, and the members of the Corporation for their interest and participation.

(ANS thanks Brennan Price, N4QX, AMSAT Secretary for the above information)

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Godínez (SWL); Gerardo Calva-Olmos (SWL), Omar Álvarez-Cárdenas XE1AO; Margarita G. Mayoral-Baldivia XE1BMG; Alfonso TamezRodríguez • XE2O
Satellite Antenna Tracking Using Goto Telescope Mounts, Dwayne Sinclair • NA6US

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

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other topics”

An informal discussion featuring the following distinguished guests:
Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA: President, Radio Amateurs of Canada
Tim Ellam, VE6SH: President, International Amateur Radio Union
Rick Roderick, K5UR: President, American Radio Relay League
Steve Thomas, M1ACB: General Manager, Radio Soc'ty of Great Britain

In these unprecedented times, this is an excellent – and possibly historic opportunity – to engage in a discussion on the challenges we face today and the future of Amateur Radio.

First session: 1 pm to 1:50 pm ET
Getting Started with Amateur Radio Satellites –
Tom Schuessler, N5HYP
Amateur Radio and Youth –
Brian Jackson, VE6JBJ
Amateur Radio Challenges in Canada’s North –
Ron Thompson, VE8RT and Angela Gerbrandt, VY0YL
CY9C St. Paul Island DXpedition –
Phil McBride, VA3QR

Second session: 2 pm to 12:50 pm ET
6m FT8 DXing –
Ron Schwartz, VE3VN
Contesting: Remote Operating –
Cary Rubenfeld, VE4EA, Tom Haavisto, VE3CX & Gerry Hull, VE1RM
VO2AC: Contest DXpedition to Labrador (CQ Zone 2) –
Chris Allingham, VE3FU/VO2AC
Amateur Radio Hotspots: A Quick Overview –
Allan Boyd, VE3AJB

Third session: 3 pm to 3:50 pm ET
La proposition d’une classe d’entrée pour les radioamateurs
(en français) – Guy Richard, VE2QG/VE2XTD
Amateur Radio: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow –
Allen Wootton, VY1KX
High Altitude Balloons: The Elevation Education –
Kelly Shulman, VE3KLX

[ANS thanks Radio Amateurs of Canada and Southgate ARC for the above information]

AO-7 Approaching Return To Full Illumination

AO-7 is approaching a return to full illumination, sometime around September 25. This period will last until approximately December 26. During this time, it is likely AO-7 will switch between Modes A and B (2m/10m, and 70cm/2m) every 24 hours. Get those 10m antennas ready to enjoy mode A every other day.

On another note, here’s a reminder and request to remember to keep the power down. Recently, I’ve observed sometimes several different stations, usually in the middle of the passband, ditting away on CW in an attempt to find themselves. This often bounces the entire passband up and down, and sometimes causes the transponder to reset (“flip”) to Mode A. Try to find yourself with very low power, or on SSB, or best, with full Doppler control, and the other users will thank you. If you have to use high power to find yourself, your receive antenna and system probably needs improvement. SSB users should also watch their uplink power carefully.

[ANS thanks Andrew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, AMSAT VP Operations, for the above information]

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TBD – A private presentation for a Boy Scout troop in Danville, Penn.

These will be Zoom presentations. Everyone is asked to update their copies of the Zoom application – by directly visiting Zoom.us.

The 38th Annual AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting in-person event scheduled to be held in Bloomington, Minnesota has been canceled. The event will be shifted to a virtual, online platform. The in-person event was scheduled to occur Friday, October 16th - Sunday, October 18th. As the 2020 virtual event plans are developed, they will be announced via the usual AMSAT channels.

[ANS thanks Paul Overn, KE0PBR, AMSAT Events page manager, for the above information]

Satellite Shorts From All Over

+ Last week Jupiter had 79 moons. This week it may have 600 more, including some that go backwards! A new study says that there may be as many as 600 small “irregular moons” orbiting Jupiter. An irregular moon is a minor object that used to orbit the Sun, but was captured by a giant planet early on in the Solar System’s history. Having swapped from being Sun-orbiting to planet-orbiting, they often have “eccentric” orbits; distant, inclined and retrograde—they orbit backwards. (ANS thanks Forbes.com for the above information)

+ Rajesh Vagadia, VU2EXP, from Gujarat State in western India, and Lucky Bijanki, VU2LBW from Bangalore in southern India, successfully worked one another via six different FM Satellites in single day on September 9. It's a record for such satellite activities in the region. Satellites worked were AO-91 (0650Z), PO-101 (0830Z), AO-27 (1305Z), SO-50 (1514Z), AO-92 (1712Z) & ARISS - ISS (1714Z). (ANS thanks Rajesh Vagadia, VU2EXP, for the above information)

+ A small leak of ammonia has been detected at the U.S. segment of the International Space Station (ISS). Ammonia is used in transferring heat from the US segment on the ISS to space. Moderate levels of ammonia are not so dangerous, but exposure to high concentrations of it can be a health hazard. The leak is at a rate of about 700 grams [1.5 pounds] per year. There is no threat to the ISS crew. A similar situation occurred in 2017 and was resolved. (ANS thanks Space Daily for the above information)

+ Earth observation satellites are playing a key role in analyzing and responding to the fires in the western U.S. NASA’s Fire Information for Resource Management System provides daily fire point-source detection, along with real time geofenced updates, world wide. NASA also provides a dashboard of world temperature. (ANS thanks The Orbital Index for the above information)

+ It was like the opening scene from a movie: cars pulled over on a busy freeway, with everyone gawking in disbelief at what they were seeing. Drivers in New Jersey on September 14 thought a flying saucer was hovering above them. But in reality, it was just another day in 2020 and the UFO was an aircraft from planet Earth: the Goodyear Blimp. With just the right lighting conditions, viewing angle and reflections, the blimp looked just like a classic flying saucer. (ANS thanks Universe Today for the above information)

+ Following requests from many amateurs outside South Africa, AMSAT-SA now offers its hand-held VHF/UHF yagi for export if ordered in a

batch of 6, at R950 each (approx US $65), total for a batch of 6 R5700. (approx US $ 390). Available to countries in the European Union and the USA. For more information, see http://www.amsatsa.org.za/DualbandYagi.htm

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status. Contact Martha at the AMSAT Office for additional student membership information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,
This week's ANS Editor, Mark D. Johns, K0JM

k0jm at amsat dot org